

# Douglas County Law Library

## E-Mail Newsletter



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### Meeting and Event Announcements

**Solo Firm Group Lunch.** The next Solo Firm Group meeting will be held on Friday, November 16th at noon in the upstairs meeting room at Free State Brewery. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Reinhold at 842-3222 or John Bodle at 843-0187. The Solo Firm Group meets the third Friday of every month.

### Mandatory Misdemeanor Panel CLE

On December 7, 2007, there will be a Criminal Defense Bar Seminar in the Jury Assembly Room in the Judicial and Law Enforcement Center. This CLE is mandatory for attorneys who wish to serve on the Douglas County Misdemeanor Panel in 2008. The free seminar/CLE will be held from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Up to eight CLE credit hours are available.

### *Witness for the Prosecution* to be Screened on November 16th



The Law Library's "Reels of Justice Film Series" continues at 6:00 PM on Friday, November 16, 2007, with a screening of *Witness for the Prosecution*, starring Charles Laughton, Marlene Dietrich, and Tyrone Power.

Elsa Lanchester also appears in a supporting role. The film was nominated for six Academy Awards in 1958, including Best Actor, Best Actress in a Supporting Role, Best Director, Best Film Editing, Best Picture, and Best Sound Recording. It was adapted from a play by Agatha Christie.

In *Witness for the Prosecution*, a man is on trial for the sensational murder of a rich widow. A famous English barrister, who is recovering from a heart attack and is continually being pestered by his nurse to take it easy, agrees to take the case and defend the man. The defense's job becomes much harder when the accused man's wife, his only alibi, agrees to be a witness for the prosecution.

In addition to the film, the program will include an appearance by local attorney Craig Stancliffe, who will provide commentary on how the film portrays the justice system.

The program will be presented in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium and is free and open to the public.

The next film in the "Reels of Justice Film Series" will be *In Cold Blood*, scheduled for screening on February 15, 2008.

### **Current Art Gallery Exhibitions**

The November exhibits in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are oils by Pamela Rees.

The exhibits will run through the end of November. All of the pieces are for sale and may be purchased directly from the artist. Contact information for Ms. Rees is available in the Library.

The December 2007 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions will be photography by Roger Spohn. More information on the exhibits will be in the December E-Mail Newsletter.

For more information on past, current, and future Art Gallery exhibitions, or for more information on the Art Gallery, please con-

sult the Art Gallery page on the Law Library's website.

If you would like to exhibit your art in our gallery, or know of local artists who would like to show their original art here, contact Bill Pendleton, the Library's Art Gallery Exhibitions Coordinator at 843-3536 ext. 19 or [billpen@pendletonandsutton.com](mailto:billpen@pendletonandsutton.com), or the Law Library at 838-2477 or by e-mail at [info@douglascolawlibrary.org](mailto:info@douglascolawlibrary.org).

### **New Acquisitions**

Newly acquired material added to the Law Library's holdings:

Advance sheets of the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals, v.284:2/38:1 (Sept. 2007).

Search and Seizure Checklists, 2007-2008 ed.

### **Did You Know?**

Every other week, a bit of Law Library trivia is posted in the Law Library and on the Law Library's website. The previous month's "Did You Know" tidbits are then published here in the Newsletter. The hope is for this to improve communication between the Law Library and its users.

October's entries were:

- The Douglas County Law Library welcomes local attorneys to volunteer in the Library.
- If you need assistance with researching the Lexis database and no Library staff is available, you may call Lexis for help at 1-800-543-6862 from your cell phone. Press "1" when prompted and tell the research assistant who answers that you are using the Douglas County District

Court/Douglas County Law Library's license.

### **This Month In Legal History**

Each month, an event from the history of law and jurisprudence of Douglas County that occurred during that month will be included in the Newsletter. Entries will also be posted on the Law Library's website for the month. Submissions from readers are welcome and encouraged.

This month's entry:

November 27, 1855 - Jacob Branson is rescued from the Sheriff.

In 1855, Charles Dow and Franklin Coleman occupied adjoining claims at Hickory Point, about ten miles south of Lawrence, Kansas. Dow was a supporter of the free state cause and Coleman was a pro-slavery man. They frequently quarreled about their claims and, on November 21st, Dow was at Coleman's cabin, talking over the subject. As he started to go home, Coleman shot him dead in the road. That night Coleman fled to Westport, Missouri, and was protected by his pro-slavery friends there. Jacob Branson, another free-state supporter who was a friend of Dow and who shared a cabin with him, was overheard by a friend of Coleman's saying that if he could get Coleman in his sights he would shoot him. The man swore out a warrant for Branson's arrest, saying that he felt threatened by Branson. On the night of November 26, 1855, Sam Jones, the pro-slavery sheriff of Douglas County, took some fifteen men and went to Branson's house to arrest him, arriving there around 11:00 PM. Some of Branson's neighbors got word of the action and banded together at the house of their leader, Major J. B. Abbott, to attempt to rescue Branson from the pro-slavery posse. At around 1:00 AM, as the posse approached

Abbott's house, the men poured out of the house and got into the road ahead of them. After the two sides exchanged threats, Branson was told by one of Abbott's men, "If you want to be among your friends come over here." When he did so, guns on both sides were cocked, but no one fired. Jones then identified himself as Sheriff of Douglas County and said he had a warrant for Branson's arrest. The rescuers replied that they did not recognize any sheriff named Jones. S. N. Wood, another of Abbott's men, identified himself as Branson's attorney and demanded to be shown the warrant, which Jones refused to do. Wood asked if the warrant had been read or shown to Branson. Jones said no. Jones was then told that unless he produced the warrant, Branson would not go with him. The two sides talked for at least an hour before Jones and his men rode off, leaving Branson with his rescuer. They then took him to Lawrence. Many of the citizens there thought that the arrest was a trick to get the town involved in an act of insurrection that would be used to justify an attack by the pro-slavery government. To them, the arrest seemed to have been too casual and the rescue too easy. Many feared that the free-state men had played into the hands of the pro-slavery men. Their concern may have been valid, because when Jones led several hundred proslavery men in an attack on Lawrence on May 21, 1856, he justified his actions by saying that the city was in insurrection against the government.

From: [http://www.kancoll.org/books/cordley\\_history/ch\\_ch04.htm](http://www.kancoll.org/books/cordley_history/ch_ch04.htm)  
- A History of Lawrence from the earliest settlement to the close of the rebellion, by Richard Cordley, E. F. Caldwell, Lawrence, Kansas, 1895.

### **Law Library Volunteer Opportunities**

The Library is looking for individuals to fill the following volunteer positions:

E-Mail Newsletter Editor.

Film Series Commentators

Patron Education and Training Assistant.

Publicity and Marketing Assistant.

Recycling Assistant

Reference Assistant.

Volunteer Coordinator.

Work Station Maintenance Assistant.

The Library also has opportunities for volunteers to create positions around their own interests and skills.

For more information and/or for position descriptions, contact the Library or visit the "Volunteers" page on the Law Library's website.

The Law Library Volunteer Program provides a capable and dependable voluntary work force to assist with the day-to-day operations of the Law Library and its special projects. This work force supplements the paid Library staff and allows the Library to provide the best possible service to local judges, attorneys, and the public.

The Volunteer Program is instrumental in linking a valuable community resource - the citizens - with a valuable community institution - the Douglas County Law Library - for the benefit, growth, and enrichment of both.

If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering for one of them, or if you would like more information on our program and/or the positions we have open, please contact the Library or visit the "Volunteers" page on the Law Library's website.

## **Feedback**

This Newsletter is intended to be useful to its readers. As in any enterprise, feedback on how the Newsletter is fulfilling this goal is crucial to our achieving it. If our articles are helpful, let us know. If they are not, let us know. If you have suggestions on how to improve the Newsletter, please let us know. Thank you.

## **Submitting Articles for Newsletter**

The Editor encourages readers to submit articles for publication and/or make suggestions on material to be included in future issues of the Newsletter.

## **To Subscribe**

Contact the Law Library by mail, e-mail, or telephone and request a free subscription to the Newsletter. It will be sent to you as a PDF attachment to an e-mail. The Library's mailing address is: Douglas County Law Library, Judicial and Law Enforcement Center, 111 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044. The Library's e-mail address is: [info@douglascolawlibrary.org](mailto:info@douglascolawlibrary.org). The Law Library's telephone number is: 785-838-2477.

## **Classified Ads**

Free classified ads may be placed in the Newsletter by contacting the Law Library. The Editor reserves the right to refuse anything deemed inappropriate and to add restrictions as the need arises.

## **Announcement:**

The Judge Hugh Means Inn of Court meets six times per year at the Lawrence Country Club for cocktails, dinner, and CLE. Membership applications are available in the Douglas County Law Library. For more information, contact Joan Hawkins, the local Membership Chair, at 785-843-1009, or at [lawsolutions@sunflower.com](mailto:lawsolutions@sunflower.com). For general

information on Inns of Court, please consult the American Inns of Court national website at <http://www.insofcourt.org>.

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